

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 22 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A clamping mechanism for clamping an object, said clamping mechanism comprising:

a housing;

a rod attached to said housing;

a clamping arm rotatably mounted on the rod, said clamping arm being rotatable through 360° about an axis of rotation, said clamping arm and said housing each defining a supporting surface adapted for engagement with said object;

a non-releasable one way rotary clutch positioned between and operatively engaging said rod and said clamping arm to permit the clamping arm to freely rotate in only one direction about the axis of rotation; and

the clamping arm having a centre mass spaced apart from the axis of rotation.

23. (previously presented) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping mechanism further comprises a support member attached to said housing.

24. (previously presented) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 23 wherein the support member comprises a slide element, the slide element being

slidably mounted on the housing, wherein the clamping arm is rotatably mounted on the slide element so that the sliding movement of the slide element and clamping arm guides the object held between the support member and the clamping arm.

25. (withdrawn) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping arm is adapted to be mountable on a saw via a reversing slip clutch which allows the clamping arm to rotate in the reverse direction to the direction of free rotation of the rotary one way clutch if a reverse torque is exerted on the clamping arm which exceeds a specified threshold.

26. (withdrawn) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 25 wherein the one way rotary clutch and the reverse slip clutch are co-axially mounted.

27. (withdrawn) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22 wherein the clamping arm is made from a plastics material having a metal weight located towards an end of the clamping arm distant from the one way rotary clutch.

28. (withdrawn) A clamping mechanism according to Claim 22, wherein the clamping arm has a holding surface and an end distant from the one way rotary clutch, the distant end having a curvature lying in a plane, so that the curvature direction of the clamping arm end is opposite to the curvature direction of the holding surface.